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P56237**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A shadow mask frame assembly of a flat cathode ray tube,
2 comprising:
3 a shadow mask including a plurality of strips formed at a main body in a vertical direction
4 by being separated by a predetermined distance by slits and a plurality of bridges forming slots by
5 connecting neighboring strips and sectioning the slits, the slots including a plurality of first slot
6 groups and second slot groups with the slots, the first slot groups having a wider interval between
7 the bridges than the second slot groups, with ~~each one of the first slot groups including at least two~~
8 ~~columns of slots and each one of the second slot groups including at least two columns of slots~~ said
9 first and second slot groups, the slots partially passing through thermions emitted from an electron
10 gun of said flat cathode ray tube while the remaining thermions colliding against the strips and the
11 bridges; and
12 a frame supporting said shadow mask, said frame comprising:
13 a first support member and a second support member secured at a long side portion
14 of said shadow mask; and
15 a first elastic member and a second elastic member, said first elastic member and said
16 second elastic member each having two end portions, one of said two end portions coupled to said

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17 first support member and the other one of the two end portions coupled to said second support
18 member, said first and second elastic members applying a tension force to said shadow mask.

1 Claim 2. (Previously Presented) A shadow mask frame assembly of a flat cathode ray tube,
2 comprising:

3 a shadow mask including a plurality of strips formed at a main body in a vertical direction
4 by being separated by a predetermined distance by slits and a plurality of bridges forming slots by
5 connecting neighboring strips and sectioning the slits, the slots including a first slot group and a
6 second slot group with the slots, the first slot group having a wider interval between the bridges than
7 the second slot group, the slots partially passing through thermions emitted from an electron gun of
8 said flat cathode ray tube while the remaining thermions colliding against the strips and the bridges;
9 and

10 a frame supporting said shadow mask, said frame comprising:

11 a first support member and a second support member secured at a long side portion
12 of said shadow mask; and

13 a first elastic member and a second elastic member, said first elastic member and said
14 second elastic member each having two end portions, one of said two end portions coupled to said
15 first support member and the other one of the two end portions coupled to said second support
16 member, said first and second elastic members applying a tension force to said shadow mask,

17 with at least one second slot group forming at said upper and lower portions of said shadow
18 mask in a vertical direction while the first slot group is being formed between the two second slot

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19 groups in the vertical direction.

1 Claim 3. (Previously Presented) A shadow mask frame assembly of a flat cathode ray tube,
2 comprising:

3 a shadow mask including a plurality of strips formed at a main body in a vertical direction
4 by being separated by a predetermined distance by slits and a plurality of bridges forming slots by
5 connecting neighboring strips and sectioning the slits, the slots including a first slot group and a
6 second slot group with the slots, the first slot group having a wider interval between the bridges than
7 the second slot group, the slots partially passing through thermions emitted from an electron gun of
8 said flat cathode ray tube while the remaining thermions colliding against the strips and the bridges;
9 and

10 a frame supporting said shadow mask, said frame comprising:

11 a first support member and a second support member secured at a long side portion
12 of said shadow mask; and

13 a first elastic member and a second elastic member, said first elastic member and said
14 second elastic member each having two end portions, one of said two end portions coupled to said
15 first support member and the other one of the two end portions coupled to said second support
16 member, said first and second elastic members applying a tension force to said shadow mask,

17 with the first slot group being formed at the central portion of the main body in the vertical
18 direction.

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1 Claim 4. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 2, with the number of the slots
2 forming the first slot group in the vertical direction being one.

1 Claim 5. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 3, with the number of the slots
2 forming the first slot group in the vertical direction being one.

1 Claim 6. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 4, with the number of the slots
2 forming the second slot group in the vertical direction being at least three.

1 Claim 7. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 6, with the length of each of the slots
2 forming the second slot group being substantially the same.

1 Claim 8. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 7, with the length of each of the slots
2 of the second slot groups in the vertical direction and the length of the slots of the first slot group in
3 the vertical direction being substantially the same.

1 Claim 9. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 7, with the sum of the lengths of the
2 slots of the second slot group in the vertical direction being substantially the same as the length of
3 the slots of the first slot group in the vertical direction.

1 Claim 10. (Previously Presented) A shadow mask frame assembly of a flat cathode ray tube,

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2 comprising:

3 a shadow mask including a plurality of strips formed at a main body in a vertical direction
4 by being separated by a predetermined distance by slits and a plurality of bridges forming slots by
5 connecting neighboring strips and sectioning the slits, the slots including a first slot group and a
6 second slot group with the slots, the first slot group having a wider interval between the bridges than
7 the second slot group, the slots partially passing through thermions emitted from an electron gun of
8 said flat cathode ray tube while the remaining thermions colliding against the strips and the bridges;
9 and

10 a frame supporting said shadow mask, said frame comprising:

11 a first support member and a second support member secured at a long side portion
12 of said shadow mask; and

13 a first elastic member and a second elastic member, said first elastic member and said
14 second elastic member each having two end portions, one of said two end portions coupled to said
15 first support member and the other one of the two end portions coupled to said second support
16 member, said first and second elastic members applying a tension force to said shadow mask,

17 with a plurality of the second slot groups and the first slot groups being formed in the vertical
18 direction accommodating each of the first and second groups appearing alternately.

1 Claim 11. (Previously Presented) A shadow mask frame assembly of a flat cathode ray tube,

2 comprising:

3 a shadow mask including a plurality of strips formed at a main body in a vertical direction

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4 by being separated by a predetermined distance by slits and a plurality of bridges forming slots by
5 connecting neighboring strips and sectioning the slits, the slots including a first slot group and a
6 second slot group with the slots, the first slot group having a wider interval between the bridges than
7 the second slot group, the slots partially passing through thermions emitted from an electron gun of
8 said flat cathode ray tube while the remaining thermions colliding against the strips and the bridges;
9 and

10 a frame supporting said shadow mask, said frame comprising:

11 a first support member and a second support member secured at a long side portion
12 of said shadow mask; and

13 a first elastic member and a second elastic member, said first elastic member and said
14 second elastic member each having two end portions, one of said two end portions coupled to said
15 first support member and the other one of the two end portions coupled to said second support
16 member, said first and second elastic members applying a tension force to said shadow mask,

17 with the first slot group being formed at the middle portion in the vertical direction and the
18 second slot group being formed at peripheries at both sides of the first slot group.

1 Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A shadow mask frame assembly of a flat cathode ray tube,
2 comprising:

3 a shadow mask including a plurality of strips formed at a main body in a vertical direction
4 by being separated a predetermined distance by slits and a plurality of bridges forming slots by
5 connecting neighboring strips and sectioning the slits, a portion of said shadow mask including at

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6 least one strip where the bridges separated by the slots are formed and a portion of said shadow mask
7 including at least one strip having at least one slot where the bridges are not formed are alternately
8 disposed in a horizontal direction;

9 first and second support members secured at a long side portion of said shadow mask; and
10 elastic members having either end portion secured to each of said first and second support
11 members for applying a tension force to said shadow mask.

1 Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The assembly as claimed in claim 12, with the intervals
2 between the bridges in the vertical direction being substantially the same.

Claims 14-29. (Canceled)

1 Claim 30. (Previously Presented) A shadow mask frame assembly, comprising:
2 a shadow mask, comprising:
3 a plurality of strips forming columns in a vertical direction on a main body
4 of said shadow mask, the strips not passing electron beams emitted from an electron gun of a flat
5 cathode ray tube;
6 a plurality of slits forming columns and separating the columns of said strips,
7 the plurality of slits passing electron beams emitted from said electron gun of said flat cathode ray
8 tube; and
9 a plurality of bridges sectioning the columns of the plurality of slits, said

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10 bridges preventing the passing of electron beams from said flat cathode ray tube through said shadow
11 mask, said plurality of bridges forming slots by connecting adjacent strips and sectioning the slits,
12 said slots arranged in columns in the vertical direction, the slots being arranged in a first slot group
13 and a second slot group, the first slot group having slots with a wider interval between bridges than
14 the second slot group, with at least one column having both the first slot group and the second slot
15 group; and

16 a frame supporting said shadow mask.

1 Claim 31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, with said frame comprising:

2 a first support member and a second support member secured at a long side portion
3 of said shadow mask; and

4 a first elastic member and a second elastic member, said first elastic member and said
5 second elastic member each having two end portions, one of said two end portions coupled to said
6 first support member and the other one of the two end portions coupled to said second support
7 member, said first and second elastic members applying a tension force to said shadow mask.

1 Claim 32. (Previously Presented) A shadow mask frame assembly, comprising:

2 a shadow mask, comprising:

3 a plurality of strips forming columns in a vertical direction on a main body
4 of said shadow mask, the strips not passing electron beams emitted from an electron gun of a flat
5 cathode ray tube;

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6 a plurality of slits forming columns and separating the columns of said strips,
7 the plurality of slits passing electron beams emitted from said electron gun of said flat cathode ray
8 tube; and

9 a plurality of bridges sectioning the columns of the plurality of slits, said
10 bridges preventing the passing of electron beams from said flat cathode ray tube through said shadow
11 mask, said plurality of bridges forming slots by connecting adjacent strips and sectioning the slits,
12 said slots arranged in columns in the vertical direction, the slots being arranged in a first slot group
13 and a second slot group, the first slot group having slots with a wider interval between bridges than
14 the second slot group; and

15 a frame supporting said shadow mask,
16 with the first slot group forming at a central portion of said main body of said shadow mask
17 in the vertical direction.

1 Claim 33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32, with the second slot group formed at the
2 upper or lower portion of the main body of said shadow mask.

1 Claim 34. (Previously Presented) A shadow mask frame assembly, comprising:
2 a shadow mask, comprising:
3 a plurality of strips forming columns in a vertical direction on a main body
4 of said shadow mask, the strips not passing electron beams emitted from an electron gun of a flat
5 cathode ray tube;

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6 a plurality of slits forming columns and separating the columns of said strips,
7 the plurality of slits passing electron beams emitted from said electron gun of said flat cathode ray
8 tube; and

9 a plurality of bridges sectioning the columns of the plurality of slits, said
10 bridges preventing the passing of electron beams from said flat cathode ray tube through said shadow
11 mask, said plurality of bridges forming slots by connecting adjacent strips and sectioning the slits,
12 said slots arranged in columns in the vertical direction, the slots being arranged in a first slot group
13 and a second slot group, the first slot group having slots with a wider interval between bridges than
14 the second slot group; and

15 a frame supporting said shadow mask,

16 with the number of slots forming the first slot group being one while the number of slots
17 forming the second slot group being at least three.

1 Claim 35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30, with the length of the slots of the second
2 slot group being formed uniformly.

1 Claim 36. (Previously Presented) A shadow mask frame assembly, comprising:

2 a shadow mask, comprising:

3 a plurality of strips forming columns in a vertical direction on a main body
4 of said shadow mask, the strips not passing electron beams emitted from an electron gun of a flat
5 cathode ray tube;

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6 a plurality of slits forming columns and separating the columns of said strips,
7 the plurality of slits passing electron beams emitted from said electron gun of said flat cathode ray
8 tube; and

9 a plurality of bridges sectioning the columns of the plurality of slits, said
10 bridges preventing the passing of electron beams from said flat cathode ray tube through said shadow
11 mask, said plurality of bridges forming slots by connecting adjacent strips and sectioning the slits,
12 said slots arranged in columns in the vertical direction, the slots being arranged in a first slot group
13 and a second slot group, the first slot group having slots with a wider interval between bridges than
14 the second slot group; and

15 a frame supporting said shadow mask,
16 with the length of the first slot group being approximately equal to a length of a slot in the
17 first slot group.

1 Claim 37. (Previously Presented) A shadow mask frame assembly, comprising:

2 a shadow mask, comprising:

3 a plurality of strips forming columns in a vertical direction on a main body
4 of said shadow mask, the strips not passing electron beams emitted from an electron gun of a flat
5 cathode ray tube;

6 a plurality of slits forming columns and separating the columns of said strips,
7 the plurality of slits passing electron beams emitted from said electron gun of said flat cathode ray
8 tube; and

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9 a plurality of bridges sectioning the columns of the plurality of slits, said
10 bridges preventing the passing of electron beams from said flat cathode ray tube through said shadow
11 mask, said plurality of bridges forming slots by connecting adjacent strips and sectioning the slits,
12 said slots arranged in columns in the vertical direction, the slots being arranged in a first slot group
13 and a second slot group, the first slot group having slots with a wider interval between bridges than
14 the second slot group; and

15 a frame supporting said shadow mask,
16 with the slots being symmetrically formed with respect a median line cutting across the
17 middle of the columns of slots, said bridges being formed at approximately identical intervals on
18 either side of the median line.

1 Claim 38. (Previously Presented) A shadow mask frame assembly, comprising:

2 a shadow mask, comprising:

3 a plurality of strips forming columns in a vertical direction on a main body
4 of said shadow mask, the strips not passing electron beams emitted from an electron gun of a flat
5 cathode ray tube;

6 a plurality of slits forming columns and separating the columns of said strips,
7 the plurality of slits passing electron beams emitted from said electron gun of said flat cathode ray
8 tube; and

9 a plurality of bridges sectioning the columns of the plurality of slits, said
10 bridges preventing the passing of electron beams from said flat cathode ray tube through said shadow

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mask, said plurality of bridges forming slots by connecting adjacent strips and sectioning the slits, said slots arranged in columns in the vertical direction, the slots being arranged in a first slot group and a second slot group, the first slot group having slots with a wider interval between bridges than the second slot group; and

a frame supporting said shadow mask,

with the interval length between bridges at the periphery of upper and lower portions of said shadow mask being less than the interval length between the bridges at the center of said shadow mask accommodating a greater rigidity of the strips.

Claim 39. (Previously Presented) A shadow mask frame assembly, comprising:

a shadow mask, comprising:

a plurality of strips forming columns in a vertical direction on a main body of said shadow mask, the strips not passing electron beams emitted from an electron gun of a flat cathode ray tube;

a plurality of slits forming columns and separating the columns of said strips, the plurality of slits passing electron beams emitted from said electron gun of said flat cathode ray tube; and

a plurality of bridges sectioning the columns of the plurality of slits, said bridges preventing the passing of electron beams from said flat cathode ray tube through said shadow mask, said plurality of bridges forming slots by connecting adjacent strips and sectioning the slits, said slots arranged in columns in the vertical direction, the slots being arranged in a first slot group

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13 and a second slot group, the first slot group having slots with a wider interval between bridges than
14 the second slot group; and
15 a frame supporting said shadow mask,
16 with a length of the first slot group in the middle of the shadow mask being determined
17 according to the amount of the tension force applied to said shadow mask and to the size of a panel
18 of said cathode ray tube.

1 Claim 40. (Previously Presented) A shadow mask frame assembly, comprising:
2 a shadow mask, comprising:
3 a plurality of strips forming columns in a vertical direction on a main body
4 of said shadow mask, the strips not passing electron beams emitted from an electron gun of a flat
5 cathode ray tube;
6 a plurality of slits forming columns and separating the columns of said strips,
7 the plurality of slits passing electron beams emitted from said electron gun of said flat cathode ray
8 tube; and
9 a plurality of bridges sectioning the columns of the plurality of slits, said
10 bridges preventing the passing of electron beams from said flat cathode ray tube through said shadow
11 mask, said plurality of bridges forming slots by connecting adjacent strips and sectioning the slits,
12 said slots arranged in columns in the vertical direction, the slots being arranged in a first slot group
13 and a second slot group, the first slot group having slots with a wider interval between bridges than
14 the second slot group; and

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15 a frame supporting said shadow mask,
16 further comprising a plurality of second slot groups and a plurality of first slot groups
17 alternately formed in a vertical direction.

1 Claim 41. (Previously Presented) A shadow mask frame assembly, comprising:

2 a shadow mask, comprising:

3 a plurality of strips forming columns in a vertical direction on a main body
4 of said shadow mask, the strips not passing electron beams emitted from an electron gun of a flat
5 cathode ray tube;

6 a plurality of slits forming columns and separating the columns of said strips,
7 the plurality of slits passing electron beams emitted from said electron gun of said flat cathode ray
8 tube; and

9 a plurality of bridges sectioning the columns of the plurality of slits, said
10 bridges preventing the passing of electron beams from said flat cathode ray tube through said shadow
11 mask, said plurality of bridges forming slots by connecting adjacent strips and sectioning the slits,
12 said slots arranged in columns in the vertical direction, the slots being arranged in a first slot group
13 and a second slot group, the first slot group having slots with a wider interval between bridges than
14 the second slot group; and

15 a frame supporting said shadow mask,

16 with the first slot group being formed in the middle portion of the shadow mask in a
17 horizontal direction while the second slot group is formed at the peripheries at both sides of said

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18 shadow mask in the horizontal direction.

1 Claim 42. (Previously Presented) A shadow mask frame assembly, comprising:

2 a shadow mask, comprising:

3 a plurality of strips forming columns in a vertical direction on a main body
4 of said shadow mask, the strips not passing electron beams emitted from an electron gun of a flat
5 cathode ray tube;

6 a plurality of slits forming columns and separating the columns of said strips,
7 the plurality of slits passing electron beams emitted from said electron gun of said flat cathode ray
8 tube; and

9 a plurality of bridges sectioning at least one of the columns of the plurality of
10 slits, said bridges preventing the passing of electron beams from said flat cathode ray tube through
11 said shadow mask, said plurality of bridges forming slots by connecting adjacent strips and
12 sectioning the slits, said slots arranged in columns in the vertical direction, the slots being arranged
13 in a first slot group and a second slot group, the first slot group having slots with a wider interval
14 between bridges than the second slot group; and

15 a frame supporting said shadow mask,

16 with columns of said slits having bridges alternating with columns of a single slit with no
17 bridges on said shadow mask.

1 Claim 43. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30, with the width of said bridges being formed

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2 to accommodate a latent image not being displayed when the electron beam from the electron gun
3 passes through adjacent slots sectioned by the bridges and lands on a fluorescent film.

1 Claim 44. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30, with the bridges positioning on said shadow
2 mask according to the material of said shadow mask and a tension force against said shadow mask.

1 Claim 45. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, with said first and second support members
2 being separated a predetermined distance and said secured portion and said reinforcement portion
3 forming an L shape.

1 Claim 46. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, with said first and second slot
2 groups being formed with other first and second slot groups and the first and second slot groups
3 being provided alternately along one of the columns.

1 Claim 47. (Previously Presented) The assembly as claimed in claim 1, with the first slot
2 groups alternating with the second slot groups.